

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Original) A method for improving the integrity of the corneal epithelium comprising introducing an ophthalmically compatible form of a retinoid into the eye in an amount sufficient to enhance the integrity of the corneal epithelium.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising introducing the retinoid into the eye in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising introducing the ophthalmic solution in the form of drops or mist.

Claim 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the retinoid is introduced into the eye in the form of a gel or ointment.

Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising introducing the retinoid into the eye by applying the retinoid to a contact lens and placing the contact lens in the eye.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of applying the retinoid to the contact lens further comprises attaching the retinoid to a linking agent.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said applying step further comprises dipping the contact lens in a solution containing the retinoid.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising placing in the eye a retinoid in a sustained release form of the retinoid.

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said sustained release form of the retinoid further comprises a contact lens containing the retinoid.

Claim 10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the contact lens contains sorbed retinoid.

Claim 11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the retinoid is adsorbed onto the contact lens.

Claim 12. (Original) A method for improving the integrity of the corneal epithelium in an eye wearing a contact lens comprising introducing an ophthalmically compatible form of a retinoid into the eye in an amount sufficient to enhance the integrity of the corneal epithelium.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising introducing the retinoid into the eye in the form of drops.

Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising introducing the retinoid into the eye by applying the retinoid to a contact lens and placing the contact lens in the eye.

Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said applying step further comprises dipping the contact lens in a solution containing the retinoid.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising placing in the eye a retinoid in a sustained release form of the retinoid.